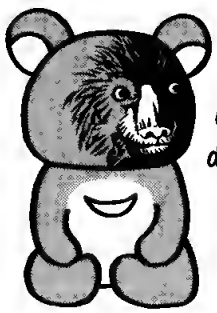
About Black Bear Killer Hisa Masato

When my debut work that I drew over 10 years ago was reprinted, I thought, "Is this magazine pressing me into some kind of shame kink?" and cried tears of gratitude. However, this time a submission piece I drew even before I debuted (and that was as yet unpublished) is being thrust into the public eye. I think something more than tears are going to flow.

Therefore it was long ago, in 2002, when Taiyo Sugiura was still playing Ultraman and hadn't married Tsuji-chan, that I drew Black Bear Killer for a certain magazine's Rookie of the Year award. When I look back on those days and people ask me to comment on them, I find myself a little at a loss... I clearly remember the resentment and jealousy I felt towards society and the magazines that wouldn't debut me no matter how much I drew. I thought all publishers were the same and decided to quit, then... The title was influenced by an American comic that was introduced in a magazine I read at the time: GIANT KILLER. While I felt like the BIG MONSTER HIT MAN written in Japanese across the front cover was slightly wrong, the literally translated logo left a big impact on me. That was also the same year the Japan and South Korea World Cup was held. The reason all the characters in the story have such extreme expressions is because I modelled them on various countries' soccer players. They don't actually look like who they're modelled on though, so I won't say who I used. One more thing. As a way of distinguishing the bear characters from one another in the final stages of the story I just bearified the character who made a come-back this year for the antagonist. Take off the ears, add dorsal fins and a tail and you'll have the Millenium version. Nevertheless, when I read this story now I really notice how clumsy the story, not the pictures, is (I actually put more effort into those drawings than I do now, and they look good). I struggle with things like, "I should have added a frame here to explain" or "this line is hard to understand" or "why didn't I draw this out to make it more exciting?", but I guess I'll just content myself with getting a change of underwear ready and accepting it.



Calm down.

Get out of the mountains!

I drew this illustration for this volume, but I think seeing it would reduce the enjoyment of the actual story.

ALRIGHT, ASSEMBLE THE LOCAL FOREIGNERS TOMORROW.
WE'LL START SELLING IMMEDIATELY.
BUT WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO ABOUT THE LOCAL YAKUZA?
THEY'RE CALLED THE "STORY-TELLING GROUP" OR SOMETHING...
I'VE GOT A BRILLIANT PLAN TO CONVINCE THEM TO STAY OUT OF OUR BUSINESS.
MEET MY LITTLE FRIEND.
THIS TOWN DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A CONVENIENCE STORE, THE YAKUZA AREN'T GONNA HAVE GUNS.
KLIKT
YOU IN THERE! THIS IS THE "STORY-TELLING GROUP"!!
THEY'RE HERE.
CRA

月ノ輪熊殺し屋

black bear killer

A very rare short story 36P

久正人

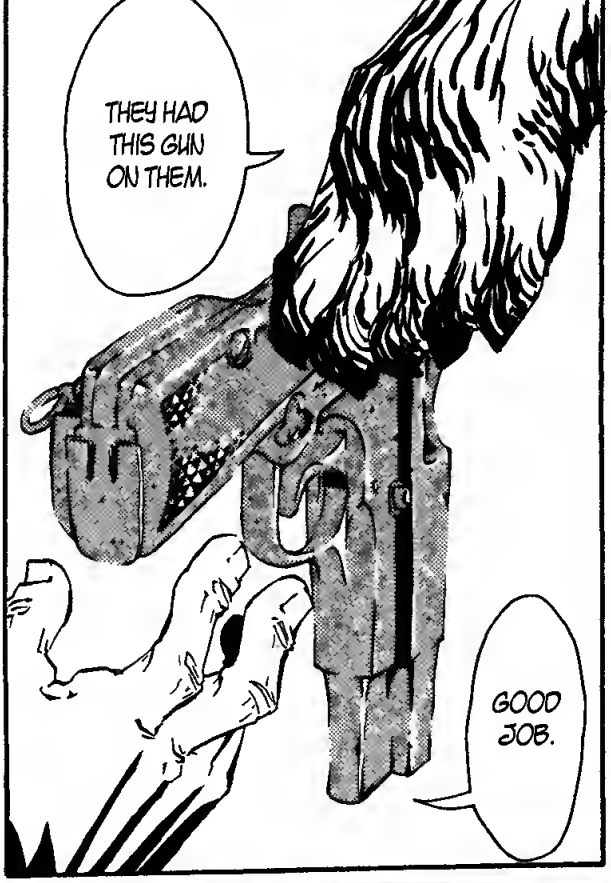
Hisa Masato

HEY...
WHAT ...
WHOOSH
SMASH
splatter
ROLL
Thunk
CRASH

ARGH!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAARRRRGGGHH

I SEE.
SO ARASHI DID WELL?
YES, BOSS.
講談社
STORY-TELLING GROUP

HE SHOULD BE BACK SOON...
OH, HERE HE COMES.
THEY MAY HAVE BEEN CITY BOYS, BUT THEY WERE IN OVER THEIR HEADS.
SO, WHERE'S ARASHI?
ANYTHING FOR YOU, BOSS.
GOOD WORK TODAY, ARASHI.


THEY HAD THIS GUN ON THEM.
GOOD JOB.

DID ANYONE SEE YOU COME BACK HERE?
OF COURSE NOT.

GO DOWN AND HAVE SOME WITH THE REST OF THE GUYS.
OH, I ALMOST FORGOT. UENO GOT US SALMON.

THAT'S GOOD...
.....

OKAY.
LET'S GO, BRO.
IT'S MY LUCKY DAY. I'LL GET SHIGE-SAN TO COOK IT FOR ME.

THUD
WHAT?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I HAD A PHONE CALL FROM OKANO IN THE WESTERN POLICE STATION.
YOU NEED TO GET RID OF HIM.
ARASHI REALLY IS A GOOD WORKER.
BOSS.

IF WE DON'T LET GO OF ARASHI, THEY'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO PIN ALL THE MURDERS ON US.
IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO GET THE BEAR TO DO IT SO NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT US, BUT...
STOP IT!
HE SAYS THE GUYS IN THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION HAVE FIGURED OUT WE'RE KEEPING A BEAR.
THAT'S NOT WHY I KEPT HIM...

NOT FOR THAT...
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, I THINK HE'S CUTE TOO.
RECENTLY, I EVEN FEEL LIKE I CAN HOLD A CONVERSATION WITH HIM.
BUT OTHER MEMBERS CAN BE JUST AS CUTE.
IT'S TIME YOU GAVE UP ON ARASHI.
SAY YOU'RE RIGHT. I CAN'T JUST KILL HIM...
WHY DON'T WE TAKE HIM BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS?
SNAP

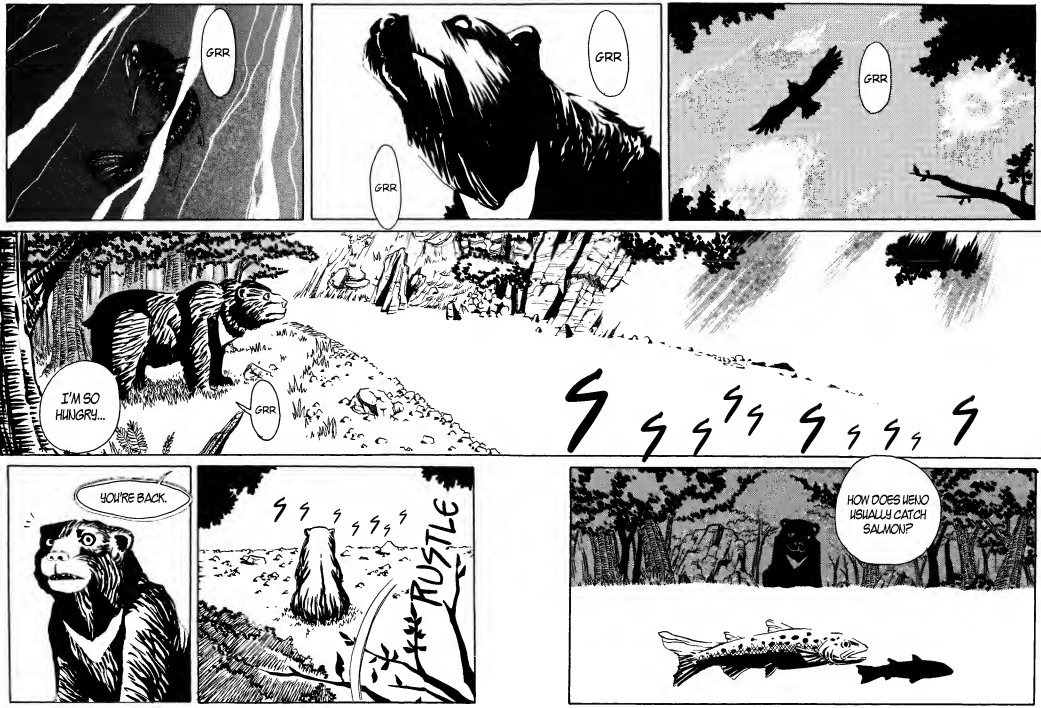
WILD BEARS DON'T COOK THEIR FISH BEFORE THEY EAT THEM.
HE COULDN'T SURVIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS...
.....

GOOD WORK.
IT'S DONE, BRO.
OK.

THANK YOU FOR EVERY-THING YOU'VE DONE.
WHACK
!
Grab
BOSS!?

GO BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS, ARASHI.
WHAT?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND?
IS THIS A JOKE?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE.
....
I'LL KILL YOU!!
SHUT UP!! IF YOU KEEP FLAPPING YOUR MOUTH

DASH
DO YOU REALLY THINK THAT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR HIM?
I REALLY THINK IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF YOU'D JUST KIL-
STOP IT!!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT...


GRR
GRR
GRR
GRR
I'M SO HUNGRY...
GRR
YOU'RE BACK.
RUSTLE
HOW DOES HEINO USUALLY CATCH SALMON?

CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?

Y- YES...
I CAN.
HOW?

GOOD...
THEN LET ME BE CLEAR:

LUNGE
IN THESE MOUNTAINS... NO,
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME
EH?

WAIT!! WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS...?
"WHY"?
SL
A
SH
!!
YOU'RE NOT WELCOME ANYWHERE IN JAPAN!!
WHOOMPH
HEY!
CREAK
CRACK
CREAK

AND WHEN YOU DO, THE HUMANS THINK A BEAR CAME INTO THE TOWN AND KILLED SOMEONE,
YOU KILL PEOPLE,
SINCE THEY DON'T KNOW YOU'RE A PET.
EACH TIME, THEY CAME INTO THE MOUNTAINS IN DROVES, CARRYING GUNS,
ALL TO KILL THE "DANGEROUS BEAR THAT ATTACKS PEOPLE".

HOW MANY HUMANS HAVE YOU KILLED UP UNTIL NOW?
THE SAME NUMBER OF INNOCENT BEARS HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED.
YOU'RE A TRAITOR TO ALL BEARS, AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE!!

B- BUT THAT'S... "TRAITOR"? BUT I JUST...
GUH
BAM
GHAH!
HM?
SWIPE
THAT IS WHAT THE MOUNTAIN HAS DECIDED.
YOU WILL DIE.
WHOOSH
SPURT
SPURT

CRASH
DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE ME!!
YOUR CLAWS CAN'T EVEN CATCH A FISH! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THEY COULD KILL A BEAR!?

A
B
T
S

I DON'T CARE IF YOU ARE HOMESICK...
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
USING TOOLS LIKE A MAN...
WH- WHAT THE HELL IS THIS...!?
GURGLE
PLEASE....
DON'T SULLY THESE MOUNTAINS ANY MORE THAN YOU ALREADY HAVE...
FLUSTERED
Y-
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!!
SPA LSH!!

I DON'T WANT TO BE HERE!!
I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU!! DON'T TALK LIKE WE'RE THE SAME!!
I'M A TRAITOR!? I'VE COME BACK!?
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!!
ASH
SPLASH
ASH
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE IN THESE MOUNTAINS LIKE SOME BEAR!!

WE'VE ARRIVED, MISTER.
THANKS.
THE BUILDING ON THAT CORNER OVER THERE IS THE POLICE HEADQUARTERS.
LUMBER
.....
NO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN...
WHAT!?

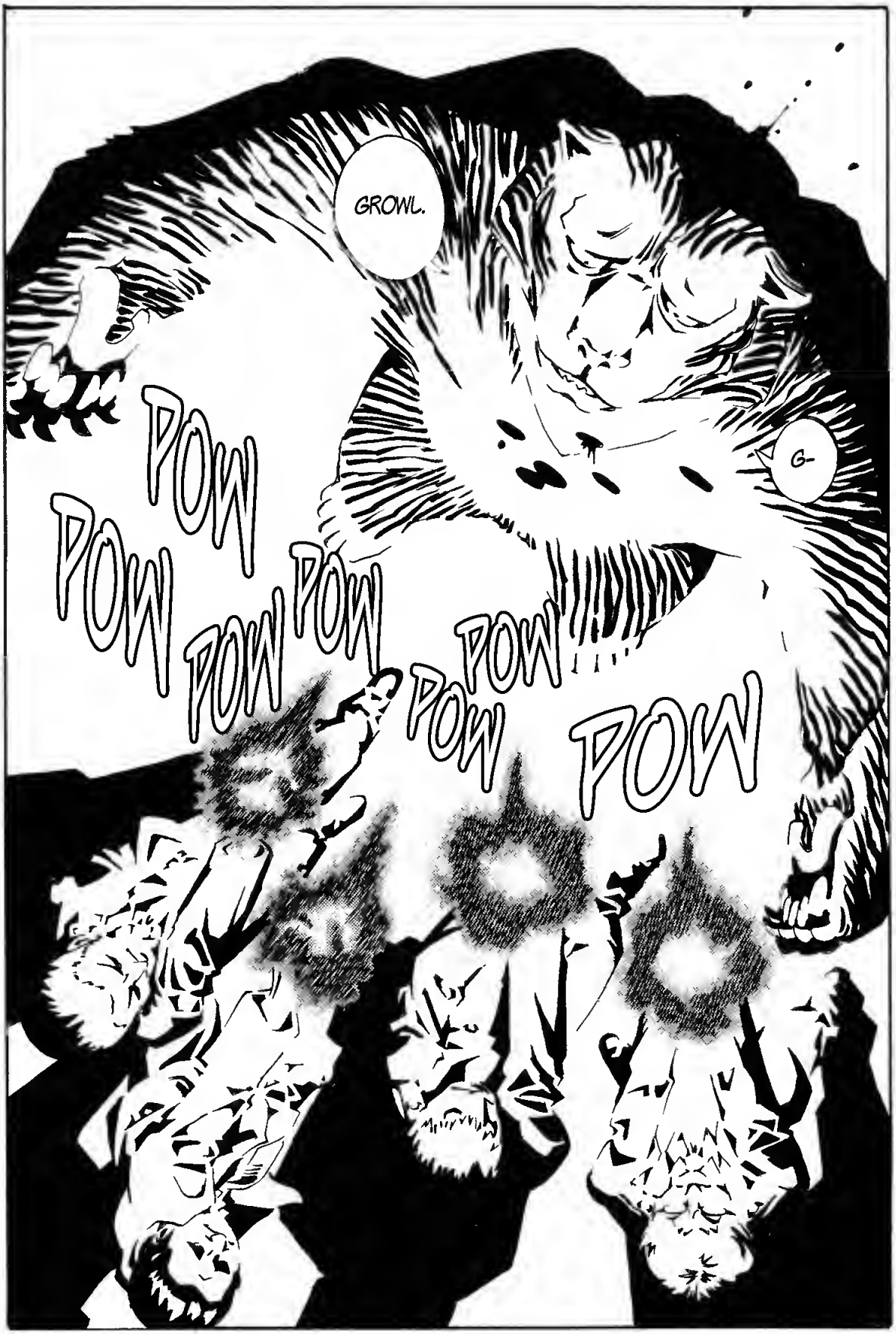
BRRRRMM
BEWARE OF BEARS

GENERAL INFORMATION
LICENCE RENEWAL
EXCUSE ME.
DON'T D.O. IT!
LICENCE RENEWAL
I'VE KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE.
SO YOU'RE... TURNING YOURSELF IN?
YES.
HELLO, IS THIS THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION?
PLEASE GIVE ME THE DEATH PENALTY.

SUGA-SAN, THIS MAN WANTS TO TURN HIMSELF IN...
A BEAR!?
OH MY GOD!
WHAT?
SINCE WHEN !?
WHA!?
AAAAAAAAARGH

YOU IDIOT! WHY DIDN'T YOU REALISE THERE WAS A BEAR IN HERE!!
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
HEY!
GUNS! GET GUNS!!
AAAAAAAAAA
RGH
KLIKT
KLIKT
KLIKT
I'M NOT A BEAR!
LISTEN TO ME! YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ME, RIGHT?

IT'S REALLY AGITATED...
NO! I WAS TALKING...
LISTEN PROPERLY!
WH...
I- IT'S ROARING!
SCARY...
IT COULD KILL US...
BUT NOT LIKE THIS...
I DO WANT TO BE KILLED,
CHECK OUT THOSE CLAWS.
SHOOT IT IF IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO ATTACK.
I WANTED TO DIE LIKE A MAN...
BUT THAT MAKES IT A BIT EXCITING.
HAH.


GROWL.
G-
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW
POW

WHAT ELSE COULD I DO?
NO.
DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?
THUD
SO, WHERE'S THIS MAN WHO WANTED TO TURN HIMSELF IN?
THE END
HUH?